

Keeping in Touch



News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

AUGUST, 1990

June, 1990 Top 20 Tithes

1.	MCC Dallas.....Dallas, TX	\$2,368.36
2.	MCC in the Valley.....N. Hollywood, CA	2,086.57
3.	MCC Toronto.....Ontario, CAN	1,938.50
4.	MCC Washington.....Washington, DC	1,574.62
5.	MCC San Francisco.....San Francisco, CA	1,391.60
6.	All God's Children MCC.....Minneapolis, MN	1,370.60
7.	MCC Long Beach.....Long Beach, CA	1,320.65
8.	MCC San Diego.....San Diego, CA	1,307.43
9.	MCC of the Resurrection.....Houston, TX	1,231.29
10.	MCC of the Rockies.....Denver, CO	957.82
11.	King of Peace MCC.....St. Petersburg, FL	956.63
12.	MCC New York.....New York, NY	837.49
13.	MCC Tampa.....Tampa, FL	690.08
14.	St. Luke's MCC.....Jacksonville, FL	620.44
15.	Joy MCC.....Orlando, FL	595.08
16.	Agape MCC of Ft. Worth.....Ft. Worth, TX	575.80
17.	MCC Key West.....Key West, FL	568.30
18.	MCC New Haven.....New Haven, CT	553.04
19.	Divine Redeemer MCC.....Glendale, CA	532.12
20.	MCC Austin.....Austin, TX	521.07

June, 1990 Top 20 Per Capita

1.	Alleluia MCC.....Calgary, Alb, CAN	37.38
2.	MCC Edmonton.....Alberta, CAN	36.36
3.	MCC of Northern Virginia.....Oakton, VA	34.91
4.	River City Living MCC.....San Antonio, TX	29.31
5.	MCC in the Valley.....N. Hollywood, CA	28.74
6.	Calvary MCC.....Redwood City, CA	27.77
7.	Open Arms MCC.....Rochester, NY	27.66
8.	MCC Rockville.....Rockville, MD	27.37
9.	MCC of the Desert.....Cathedral City, CA	25.13
10.	MCC Hartford.....Hartford, CT	24.20
11.	MCC New Haven.....New Haven, CT	23.24
12.	MCC Calgary.....Alberta, CAN	23.22
13.	MCC Eugene.....Eugene, OR	22.41
14.	MCC Seattle.....Seattle, WA	21.64
15.	MCC New York.....New York, NY	21.06
16.	MCC Gentle Shepherd.....Vancouver, WA	21.05
17.	MCC of the Living Spring...Eureka Spgs, AR	20.78
18.	MCC Augusta.....Augusta, GA	20.49
19.	MCC Ocean of Life.....Costa Mesa, CA	18.85
20.	MCC Dallas.....Dallas, TX	18.48

Praises

MCC Dallas voted unanimously in July to accept two contracts, one selling their existing property to the Dallas Gay Alliance for \$500,000; and another purchasing 4½ acres of beautiful wooded property approximately two miles north of the present church location. The cost of the new property is \$250,000. They have plans for a new first unit which will seat 800, and later serve as a wholeness center when they build a 1200 seat sanctuary. MCC Dallas celebrated their 20th Anniversary the end of July and had ground breaking ceremonies at that time for their new building. Congratulations, MCC Dallas!

MCC Kansas City has just completed their bond-sale of \$390,000 to finance the purchase of a lovely church facility which will seat 400. They plan occupancy by August 15. Good Luck and Best Wishes, MCC Kansas City!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TROY! July 27, 1990 marked the 50th Birthday of Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator and Founder of UFMCC. Troy would like to thank all of you for your cards and loving words of support. We wish you many happy times to come, Troy. We love you!

Prayers

Prayers are requested for Mr. Carol Richer, spouse and family and friends of Rev. Ron Bergeron of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada who went home to be with Jesus on July 8, 1990. Ron was an extremely gentle and spiritual person and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Prayers are requested for the family and friends of Rev. Jim Harris of Shreveport, LA who passed on to eternal life on July 22, 1990. Jim brought much joy into so many lives and will be greatly missed.

Please keep in prayer those who need our love and support at this time: Rev. Emmett Watkins, Worcester, MA; Rev. David Presley, Wichita Falls, TX; Rev. Ron Russell-Coons, San Francisco, CA; Dr. Gary McClelland, Los Angeles, CA; Mike Tidler, Spouse of Rev. Ernie Edwards of Mobile, AL; Lovedy Brydon, Sister of Rev. Joseph Gilbert; Cari Bourette, Spouse of Rev. Ro Halford, Los Angeles, CA; and for the family and friends of Joseph Johnson, member of Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL who died on July 29, 1990.

In Memory of
Rev. Ron Bergeron
Ottawa, Ontario Canada

Rev. Ron Bergeron, a gentle, spiritual, loving child of God went home to be with Jesus on July 8, 1990 from complications due to AIDS. A celebration of Ron's life was held in Ottawa, Ontario on July 11, 1990 with Rev. Troy Perry officiating. During this service many of Ron's writings were read and we would like to share a few of those writings with you so that you may share in a part of Ron's life.

"Prince of Life - Jesus - My Saviour, teach me to find in death your invitation to 'Come, follow me.' Rid me of my fears and strengthen every sinew of my being to accept in death - others' or my own - new life and presence in your love. Let me make of death itself a gift. Let it be a reaching out to you."

"As a child, grace was a quantity that I was taught to pray for receiving, hope for possessing and to be thankful for when obtained. Saints had it. They were full of grace. My image of a holy person was staid and unreal: a quiet individual - not needing to eat, sleep or work, and seldom, if ever, laughing. None of my family or friends could be considered as holy by such a standard. As for grace, I thought there would be at least some in my life, but was never quite sure if I had used it all or if it was still to come to me.

"As I grew older, however, I at last began to grasp, if only fleetingly, the beauty and the force of grace. Reflecting on my family and friends, I realized that there was a reality - quite independent of me or of any one of them - that existed because of both of us. That reality could be called love, perhaps, but when I named it grace, I was led to the realization of the dynamic brought about by God's freely-given love for me accepted in my life.

"In grace I have been inspired, lifted up in darkness comforted and moved to thanksgiving in compassion. My day to days have been invaded by a constancy of hope and my nights by a faith that all is well. Of my family and friends, I now think with gratitude, for through them - through these holy people, I have been instructed of the Divine."

Rev. Ron Bergeron is and always will be remembered for his loving and gentle spirit, his laughter and his ability to bring so much joy to so many who knew him. Ron will be missed in so many ways by all of the people who knew and loved him, and by the many people whose lives were touched by Ron's presence.

Ron's life was filled with love and joy which he shared with everyone he came in contact with. The following words from Ron's writings seem to bring out the love that Ron felt this world needed to know:

"So that we may love one another, let us first include one another. Real love dwells only in a space that recognizes the 'we' before the 'I' and the 'you'. Such a space is holy ground. It is welcoming and hospitable, devoid of personal greed and of the kind of fear that objectifies another person - a neighbour - by assuming that one is the keeper of the door to sharing.

"There has never been only one door; there are many. The invitation is not our own creation, but a gift given by the Inviter of all. To none of us is given the power to say who is welcome and who is not, who may enter and who may not, who is invited and who is not, who belongs and who does not, who is 'in' and who is 'out'.

"Love is not a space to own or to possess. It can only be entered into and shared."

Thank you, Ron, for your beautiful words of wisdom and your gentle and loving ways. We will miss you and hold you in our thoughts and minds always.

News from MCC
Churches

MCC Key West, Florida is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Tyrone Sweeting as their full-time Assistant Pastor. Rev. Sweeting was just licensed and did his internship at Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and recently graduated from St. Thomas University with a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry.

MCC Key West also just finished celebrating their Tenth Year of Ministry. In Key West tradition, the celebration lasted three weeks, starting with a Sunset Boat Cruise, a Theatre Party, a sit-down Banquet for over 111 people and ending June 10th with Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry. A prior attendance record of 180 was broken. Along with the church being given the County Mayor's Proclamation and a resolution from the City of Key West, Rev. Elder Perry was granted a very special honor. Rev. Perry was made an "Honorary Conch" by the Monroe County Mayor.

MCC Las Vegas, Nevada is now searching for a Senior Pastor as their recent Pastor, Rev. Ralph Conrad has just been elected to Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, Illinois and will begin in that position the 1st September. If you are interested in information regarding MCC Las Vegas please contact: Pulpit Search Committee, c/o MCC Las Vegas, 1119 S. Main St., Las Vegas, NV 89104; (702) 384-2325.

Now Available!
New Brochure
by
Rev. Elder Don Eastman

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does
&
does not
say**



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Calling people to new life
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Confronting the injustice
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Christian social action . . .

Creating a community
of healing and reconciliation
through faith, hope, and love.

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

UFMCC
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029 U.S.A.
Telephone: (213) 464-5100

▼
This pamphlet was written by the Reverend Elder Donald Eastman,
Second Vice Moderator of the UFMCC Board of Elders.

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25 Copies	\$ 6.50
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UFMCC - Church Services
5300 Santa Monica Blvd.,
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by

Rev. Elder Don Esten

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50 Copies	12.00	5000 East Main St.
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Laity Sharing

A Publication of the UFMCC Commission on the Laity
THIRD EDITION

AUGUST 1990

JoNee Shelton, Chair

Robert Dedman, Asst Chair

The Diaconate for a Growing Church

The Rev. Arlene Ackerman has developed an approach to the diaconate based upon her pastoral experience in UFMCC and extensive knowledge of church growth. She has proposed a program suitable for developing the diaconate within a growing mid-sized church, or large church which already has a large number of deacons available. Noting that "a Deacon often does everything imaginable: preach, clean bathrooms, visit the sick, care for the altar, run errands, perform office work, serve communion, and much more." Rev. Ackerman has defined the qualifications, responsibilities and duties of deacons with emphasis upon spiritual gifts. Viewing deacons as lay people with the gift of pastoring, she specifies that "the deacon becomes the pastor to a group of people, ministering to their needs, letting them know they are each important, making sure they don't get lost in the crowd, and assisting them in finding their ministry."

Using scripture to enumerate the qualities of a Deacon, Rev. Ackerman makes it clear that "the people who become Deacons are already mature and proven Christians." Building on this assumption,

she has detailed a selection process which has prospective candidates submit a statement of faith, a personal resume, a paper expressing understanding of duties and responsibilities of Deacons, a listing of special projects and ministries, and letters of recommendation. Once selected, Deacon candidates undergo six weeks of training outlined in detail in this paper. Upon successful completion of all requirements, Deacons are affirmed by the congregation, become members of the Board of Deacons, and begin pastoring to a group of members and prospective members within a geographical region of the city.

Rev. Ackerman does not leave the reader wondering how to implement the selection, training, and organizational aspects of this program. All relevant information for initiation and maintenance are specified. There are even some built in pep talks which inspire and direct the individual who might institute it. There are also realistic caveats for when this program might not be suitable for a church.

You may receive a copy of this paper for \$10.00 (to cover copying, postage and handling) from All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church, 3100 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Regional Conferences in the Mid-Central District

Due to its large geographical size, the Mid-Central District has distinguished regions to promote networking between individuals and churches in adjoining states. To facilitate education, fellowship, spiritual growth and renewal, regional conferences are being sponsored and planned by the Mid-Central Commission on the Laity for the summer and fall of 1990.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, co-sponsored with Family of God MCC, will be in Red Lodge, Montana, August 16-19 providing opportunities for worship, relaxation, and contemplation, there will also be workshops on Church Government and being a Lay Leader. The conference will be held at Westminster Spires Church Camp. The cost is \$30.00 for food and lodging.

The Southern Regional Conference will be in Kansas City, Missouri on September 7-9. Workshops include Public Speaking for the Lay Person, Networking - A Clearinghouse of Resources, and Lay Leadership. The conference will be held at the KCI Marriott. The cost is \$35.00 for registration and \$59.00 per night for hotel (quad).

The Northern Regional Conference will be in Des Moines, Iowa, October 5-7. Workshops include Inclusive Language, Dealing with Conflict, Lay Leadership, and Faith Fellowship and Order. The conference will be held in the Park Inn International. The cost is \$45.00 for registration and \$48.00 per night for hotel (quad).

All are welcome to any of these conferences. For detailed registration information contact Mr. Mark Kahabka, 1562 N. Pinecrest, Wichita, KS 67208.

Leadership Training

You are invited to spend Saturday Oct. 13th expanding your skills to become a more effective church leader.

Rev. Brent Hawkes, Pastor of MCC Toronto, Canada, will be leading two workshops vital to building a caring faith community and growing church.

Rev. Hawkes is the Pastor of a dynamic and growing congregation. His specialized training and gifts of understanding the dynamics of church growth combined with years of pastoral experience make him uniquely qualified to teach inspire and lead.

You won't want to miss this opportunity for personal growth and ministry enrichment.

The first of the workshops is titled "Finding, Feeding, and Caring for Volunteers". The second is "Conflict Resolution: Stepping Stones or Stumbling Blocks." The registration cost for the seminars is \$10.00 and may be sent to MCC Washington, 415 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Please designate your payment for Leadership Weekend. Additional information may be obtained from Mr. David Smith, MCC Washington Leadership Weekend Coordinator.

Those attending are also invited to attend a Saturday evening Service of Musical Praise presented by the Music Ministry of MCC Washington.

We still need your help!!

"Laity Sharing" still needs your input to be successful. News and information materials should be directed to Jo Hughes. Workshops and educational Materials should be directed to Jonelle Neighbor.

COL MEETING

The Commission on the Laity will be holding its next meeting Oct. 12-14, 1990 presently planned for Las Vegas, Nevada. For input or information contact your District Lay Rep.

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Regional Conferences in the Mid-Central District

Due to its large geographical area the Mid-Central District has distinguished regions in its network between individuals and churches in adjoining states. To help foster education, fellowship, spiritual growth and renewal, regional conferences are being sponsored and planned by the Mid-Central Commission on the Lady for the summer and fall of 1990.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference co-sponsored with Family of God PAC will be in Red Lodge, Montana, August 18-19, providing opportunities for worship, relaxation and contemplation. There will also be workshops on Church Government and being a Lay Leader. The conference will be held at Westminster Spire Church Camp. The cost is \$1000 for food and lodging.

The Southern Regional Conference will be in Kansas City, Missouri on September 7-8. Workshops include Public Speaking for the Lay Person, Networking - A Christianity of Resources and Lay Leadership. The conference will be held at the KCI Sheraton. The cost is \$2500 for registration and \$1500 per night for hotel (guaranteed).

The Northern Regional Conference will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 5-7. Workshops include Inclusive Language, Dealing with Conflict, Lay Leadership and Faith Fellowship and Order. The conference will be held in the Park Inn International. The cost is \$4500 for registration and \$4500 per night for hotel (guaranteed).

All are welcome to any of these conferences. For detailed registration information, contact Mrs. Mark Kachuba, 1551 N. Pioneer, Wichita, KS 67202.

Leadership Training

You are invited to spend Saturday Oct. 13th expanding your skills to become a more effective church leader.

Rev. Brent Hawkes, Pastor at MCO Toronto, Canada, will be leading two workshops vital to building a caring faith community and growing church.

Rev. Hawkes is the Pastor of a dynamic and growing congregation. His specialized training and gifts of understanding the dynamics of church growth combined with years of pastoral experience make him uniquely qualified to teach inspire and lead.

You won't want to miss this opportunity for personal growth and ministry enrichment.

The first of the workshops is titled "Thinking, Feeling and Acting for Victory." The second is "Conflict Resolution Strategies: Success or Stumbling Block?" The registration cost for the weekend is \$1000 and may be sent to MCO Washington, 415 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Please designate your payment for Leadership Weekend. Additional information may be obtained from Mr. David Smith, MCO Washington Leader-ship Weekend Coordinator.

Those attending are also invited to attend a Saturday evening Service of Musical Praise presented by the Music Ministry of MCO Washington.

We still need your help!

Lady Sharing still needs your input to be successful. News and information materials should be directed to Jo Higgins, Workshops and educational materials should be directed to Joanne Neilsen.

COL MEETING

The Commission on the Lady will be holding its next meeting Oct. 12-14, 1990 currently planned for Las Vegas, Nevada. For input or information contact your District Lay Rep.

Joanne Neilsen
Executive Director
1551 N. Pioneer
Wichita, Kansas 67202

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General Council Policies

The General Council invites all UFMCC Program agencies to give their input on how the following policies or procedures might affect them. The motions below have been passed by the General Council as First Readings, and will be submitted for final adoption as Second Readings at the October, 1990 General Council meeting. The executive board or steering committee of a program agency may respond as a whole, or they may authorize the program head to respond on their behalf.

Please submit any written responses to the Clerk of the General Council through the Fellowship Offices by September 30, 1990.

A. GC X-A-20:

(1) All Fellowship programs shall fulfill one or more of the following functions:

- a) Facilitating education on and healing of systemic oppressions, especially homophobia, racism, sexism, nationalism, and others. Healing is understood as both attitudinal change and concrete personal and institutional action which seeks to insure that equality of opportunity is implemented.
- b) Training, nurture and continuity of leadership for witness and ministry.
- c) Development and distribution of supportive resources for witness and ministry.
- d) Facilitate processes of deliberation and consensus on issues and interests of mutual concern to the consistency of the UFMCC.
- e) Representation of the UFMCC.

(2) The following guidelines shall be followed in development of the 1992-93 budget:

- a) World Church Extension has the potential for substantial fundraising, therefore, should move toward becoming financially self-sustaining. This is a long-range goal which should not be applied in ways that disrupt present full-time salaries.
- b) Samaritan College also should move toward greater levels of contributed income requiring decreasing levels of support from the General Fund. This change should be gradual and not disruptive to present staff salaries.
- c) Funding of part-time salaries in all program units need to be a subject of study and dialogue, giving consideration to issues of function, equity and priority.
- d) Begin development of strategies for program incentives based on a process of program evaluation.

(3) The following priorities shall be followed in development of the 1992-93 budget:

- Adequate funding to facilitate the ministry of Elders, including pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical work, and the administrative work of the General Council.
- Adequate Executive, Administrative and Support salaries and equipment.
- Response to the AIDS crisis.
- World Church Extension
- Samaritan College
- Increased staff support to the Department of People of Color.
- Development of a Women's Commission
- Establishment of a Financial Development Program
- Development and distribution of ministry resources
- Establishment of a study process to address international issues related to UFMCC Systems and Structures.

B. GC X-A-23: Moved that end of year financial reports from Districts outside the U.S. and WCE shall be included with financial reports to the General Conference.

- C. GC X-A-27: Moved that the annual tithe summary reports from all churches shall be included with financial reports to the General Conference.
- D. GC X-B-4: Move to replace A.304-b, A.304-c, A.304-d, A.304-g of the Policy Manual, with:
The policy regarding district boundaries is as follows:
1. No major geographical changes are to be made at this time.
 2. The General Council authorizes the Corporate & Legal Division to review and respond to specific boundary change requests. The Division will not act upon any requests before seeking input from the District Coordinators and the District Committees affected. The Division will bring its recommendation to the General Council.
 3. The General Council authorizes the Corporate & Legal Division to adjust current boundaries so that given metropolitan areas are not divided between Districts, using the process in #2 above.
 4. Each District shall develop a set of Goals and Objectives with rationale, subject to approval of the General Council, which shall serve as working expectations for that District during the five years subsequent to their approval. District shall submit their goals and objectives with rationale to the General Council no later than after the second District Conference business meeting to occur after March, 1990. Areas of concerns for goals and objectives should include, but not be limited to:
 - A. Full-time District Coordinator with paid health and pension benefits.
 - B. Functioning district office outside the D.C.'s home.
 - C. X- number (to be determined) of chartered churches to District population.
 - D. Comparatively significant numbers of district-level ministries.
 - E. Spiritual maturity and stability (including indicators of maturity and stability).
- E. GC X-C-2: Moved that prior to printing any edition of UFMCC Bylaws, the Bylaws must be approved by the Corporate & Legal Division.
NOTE: Corrections to be made at next printing - page 7, Line 38 - "Approved" should be "Certified".
- F. GC X-D-9: Moved that the Board of Pensions (USA) shall notify U.S. District Coordinators of churches in arrears at the same time the local church is notified. The District Coordinator will investigate the matter and send a written response to the Board of Pensions and copy to the local church.
- G. GC X-D-10: Moved the following policy to establish General Council agenda:
- 1) Ninety days prior to each General Council meeting, the Clerk, in consultation with the Director of Administration, the Administrative Elder, and the Moderator, will prepare a tentative agenda for the meeting, indicating the times of special events, speakers, extra Division meetings, Board of Elders meetings, District Coordinators meetings, and definite closing time for Council meetings.
 - A) The tentative agenda will be mailed to all Council members ninety days prior to the Council meeting. The tentative agenda is not for general distribution and is only to be used by Council members.
 - 2) Sixty days prior to each Council meeting, Council members must submit to the Clerk any additional items to be included in the agenda.
 - 3) Thirty days prior to each Council meeting, the Clerk, in consultation with the Director of Administration, the Administrative Elder, and the Moderator, will prepare the final detailed agenda for the meeting.
 - A) This detailed General Council agenda shall be sent to all UFMCC Clergy and Churches thirty days in advance of each General Council meeting.
 - 4) All written materials to be submitted to the Council by Council members must be sent to the Clerk thirty days prior to each Council meeting.

Elders Task Force on Structures and Systems

From the Board of Elders

In March, 1990, the Board of Elders appointed and the General Council approved the establishment of an Elders Task Force on Structures and Systems (ETFSS). The creation of the ETFSS came as a response to a number of concerns regarding the structures and systems of the UFMCC, including the Binding Resolution passed by the General Conference, 1989, concerning district boundaries. The people appointed to the Task Force are:

Reverend David Farrell, Chairperson	(San Diego, CA)
Mr. Bernard Barbour	(Houston, TX)
Ms. Joyce Robbins	(Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)
Ms. JoNee Shelton	(New Orleans, LA)
Reverend Darlene Garner	(Baltimore, MD)
Reverend Larry Uhrig	(Washington, D.C.)
Reverend Kathleen Jo Williams	(Lakewood, OH)
Reverend Bill Hein	(District Coord. of Australia, Adelaide, S.A.)
Elder Larry Rodriguez	(Board of Elders, Los Angeles, CA)

(Reverend Elder Don Eastman and Mr. Ravi Verma, from the Fellowship Offices in Los Angeles, CA, were appointed as Staff Consultants).

In addition, the Board of Elders at its July, 1990, meeting appointed the Reverend Elder Jean White, the World Church Extension Elder, as consultant to the ETFSS.

The charge of the ETFSS is:

1. Review and assess the procedure for establishing District boundaries and bring recommendations for a new procedure which reduces the possibility of conflict of interest in boundary decisions.
2. Review and assess Fellowship and District/WCE level structures and systems, giving particular attention to the results and impact of structural changes adopted in 1985.
3. Conduct an assessment of needs felt by clergy and lay people of UFMCC churches regarding Fellowship and District/WCE level structures; review previous needs assessment efforts and long-range planning processes conducted since 1985.
4. Review the international impact and implications of UFMCC structures and systems at every level.
5. Present findings and, if deemed appropriate by the Task Force, present recommendations for action and/or structural change.

The Chairperson of the ETFSS, the Reverend David Farrell, met with the Board of Elders at their July, 1990 meeting to discuss the progress of the ETFSS to date. The Chairperson of ETFSS is scheduled to meet with the General Council at its October, 1990 meeting. The first formal meeting of the full ETFSS is scheduled for March, 1991. There will also be a meeting just prior to General Conference, 1991. A preliminary report will be presented at the General Conference, 1991, with a final report submitted to the General Conference, 1993.

Eldest Task Force

on

Structures and Systems

The first of the three main tasks of the task force is to identify the structures and systems that are currently in place and to determine whether they are still relevant and effective.

The second task is to identify the structures and systems that are needed to support the mission of the task force and to determine whether they are currently in place and effective.

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The eleventh task is to identify the structures and systems that are needed to support the mission of the task force and to determine whether they are currently in place and effective.

The twelfth task is to identify the structures and systems that are needed to support the mission of the task force and to determine whether they are currently in place and effective.

Congratulations!

Praise God - We now have 24 newly licensed Clergy in UFMCC and 5 Clergy who have Re-Entered. Also, Congratulations to the 76 Clergy who were re-licensed.

5 Re-Entry Clergy:

Rev. Emily A. Bel, Atlanta, GA
Rev. Grant Brush, St. Louis, MO
Rev. Rusty M. Carlson, Spokane, WA
Rev. James W. Morgan, Jr., Anchorage, AK
Rev. Yolanda S. Vierra-Allen, Guerneville, CA

24 Newly Licensed Clergy:

Rev. Mia Andersen, Frederiksberg, Denmark
Rev. Lewis A. Broyles, Jackson, MS
Rev. Rudd H. Canaday, New Orleans, LA
Rev. Marlene L. Casmero, Sacramento, CA
Rev. Gina L. Chapman, Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Kirk F. Dudenhoeffer, Orlando, FL
Rev. Barbara L. Freeman, Houston, TX
Rev. Thomas A. Gashlin, Miami, FL
Rev. Roberto Gonzales, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Rev. Michael L. Horn, Auckland, New Zealand
Rev. Daniel A. Mahoney, Denver, CO
Rev. Lupe L. Martinez, San Anselmo, CA
Rev. Roderick A. McAvoy, London, ONT Canada
Rev. Victoria Mitchusson, Nashville, TN
Rev. Margaret R. Simpson, Wolverhampton, England
Rev. Sue A. Stackhouse, Bellingham, WA
Rev. Gillian Storey, London, England
Rev. Tyrone P. Sweeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Rev. Marjorie M. Tanis, Somerville, MA
Rev. Neil G. Thomas, Bournemouth, England
Rev. Geoffrey Walker, Morphet Vale, Australia
Rev. Heike Weber, Preston, VIC Australia
Rev. Carol A. West, Dallas, TX
Rev. Joseph T. Whitley, St. Petersburg, FL

MCC Pastor Named to D.C. Cable Board Seat

(July 13, The Washington Blade)

The D.C. Council this week approved without debate the appointment of openly Gay Rev. Larry Uhrig to the Public Access Corporation board of directors, an oversight body to the public access channels of the D.C. cable television system.

Mayor Marion Barry earlier this year nominated Uhrig, who is pastor of the predominantly Gay Metropolitan Community Church, to the three-year post, according to the head of the Office of Cable TV, Richard Maulsby. With the Council's action Tuesday, said Maulsby, Uhrig immediately became part of the seven-member board, which is charged with running the programming of the city's four public access cable channels.

"This is a wonderful way for the Gay community to present a better image to the community at large," said Uhrig. "[Cable Television] is a wonderful educational tool."

This marks Uhrig's third mayoral appointment. Uhrig currently serves on the city's Domestic Partnership Commission, and was a member of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Advisory Board in 1983.

Prison Ministry

*by Rev. Anne Hulse of
Song of Messiah MCC,
Bellingham, Washington*

Those of us involved in prison ministry have been asked to write about ourselves and our connection to this vital work. I personally have been redeemed from a life that could have led to prison. I truly believe the words of God in Jeremiah 29:11, that God has a plan for each of us - one with a future full of hope. Never did I dream when I first walked into an MCC 11 years ago that God would choose me to minister to the very street people and those in jail that I had been so closely related to.

During my time on the streets my life, as only a life lived there could be, was to meet with the worst that could beset a person. I've been robbed many times, nearly killed, molested and raped. I've always found it ironic that God would call me to work with those who victimized me. (I Thess. 5:18)

After graduating with honors from Central Washington University, no easy feat for a dyslexic high school dropout, I entered into a knowledge of Christ's love for me - a single Lesbian mother of two, a woman with a past. I believe I was farsighted before because I couldn't see how near Christ walked with me in the streets of despair.

I became involved in another person's prison ministry in 1983. Funded by MCC Seattle, I spent six years directing the prison ministry there. As Co-pastor of Song of Messiah MCC, Bellingham, WA, God has again brought young men to my doorstep.

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Prison Ministry, (cont'd)

Many of the disenfranchised in the jails and prisons of this land are Gays and Lesbians who believe they have been abandoned by God. It is only through the lives of the living stones of the church, you and I, that these brothers and sisters can be touched, healed, and guided to redemption.

Living Will Form

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health lets states require clear proof that incompetent patients want to die before life support is shut off. Probably the most acceptable "proof" in states which permit it, is a current living will. The Fellowship Office can supply a copy of the form, upon request, for duplication and use in local California congregations. Because state laws vary, churches in other states who want to make this form available, should contact a local attorney.

Comings and Goings in The Fellowship Office

The Fellowship Office bid farewell to Rev. Vicky Mitchusson Nelsen on July 20. After serving for almost three and a half years as our computer operator, Vicky, her spouse Sue Rhodes, and Vicky's daughter Becky moved to Nashville, TN, where Vicky plans to be Clergy in Residence at MCC Nashville while she pursues additional educational opportunities in the Nashville area.

Our prayers for Vicky's happiness and success traveled with her as she drove cross country.

In early June, our UFMCC receptionist, Jorge Gonzalez left to accept a position as the manager of a major local bakery. Though he occasionally stops by the Fellowship Office to say hello and bring "goodies," he is missed and goes with our prayers for joy and success.

On an interim basis, Franklin Calvin and Eric Topp have been serving as receptionist.

The staff family welcomed Dave Martin on July 15th as our new computer operator. Dave, an active member of MCC Los Angeles, comes to us after several successful years in commercial telemarketing. A native of Phoenix, Dave moved to California 13 years ago. He currently lives in Los Angeles with his 2 dogs Sadie and Shannon.

Pastor Needed!

MCC Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada announces a pastoral vacancy. Rev. Beverly Baptiste, after prayerful reflection, resigned her position effective September 30. Clergy interested in this part-time position are invited to submit a resume, to: Pastoral Search Committee, MCC Winnipeg, c/o Dr. Thomas Corbett, 331 Victor Street, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3G 1P7. Additional information will be provided upon request.

From the Heart of the South - Mississippi

Rev. Jim Becker, has accepted the position of Minister of Evangelism at MCC Jackson, MS. He recently traveled to Huntsville, AL to speak at a rally and to Birmingham, AL to march in their 2nd annual Gay Pride Parade and to participate in Day in the Park activities which included a Rite of Blessing on relationships. Seventeen couples came forth to be publicly blessed in relationship. Rev. Becker has recently been named to an advisory board position with LifeForce Foundation, Inc. of Birmingham, AL, an organization dedicated to job placement and self identity issues in the lesbian, and cross-gender communities.

Rev. Lew Broyles and Rev. Jim Becker of MCC Jackson, MS sit on a committee, called "Ecumenical Health Care Organization, Inc.", in the city of Jackson, which includes the Bishops of the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches of Mississippi along with priests and clergy of those denominations. The primary task of this group is to open an ecumenical 46-bed hospice and personal care unit for people with AIDS.

Rev. Lew Broyles recently traveled to Huntsville, AL to conduct a workshop called "Pathways to Healing." He serves as the Gulf Lower Atlantic District Representative of White People Healing Racism and is the historian for the group.

If you are looking for a place to complete your student clergy internship, please consider Jackson, MS. Jackson is a loving and healing congregation which embraces the diversity of our fellowship.

Reminder: To MCC Churches

In the July issue of "Keeping In Touch" we include a survey from White People Healing Racism. Please remember to fill this survey out as soon as possible and return it to us. Thank you for your assistance.